

## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW		REPORT NO. 116337-D-52-5831-B		PAGE 5 OF 14 PAGES	
PLACE TORGAU	WAC NO 231	FN F-0	EVAL IN CODE NO.		
POLITICAL LOCATION SZG		DISCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT Concentration Camp in TORGAU			
SOVIET ECON. REGION	PROPER NAME	IMENI	DATES OF INFORMATION FROM Oct 50 TO Aug 52		

The treatment was bad. The inmates were very often beaten by the guards and severe punishments were imposed for trifling disciplinary offences. There were the following kinds of punishments: Fourteen days detention in special cells (the inmates were allowed to see their families only once a month).

**I. PREAMBLE:** SOURCE who belonged to the People's Police border guard unit in MARIBORN (52 13N 11 07 E) was interned in the Concentration Camp in TORGAU (51 34 N, 13 00 E) from Oct 50 to Aug 52. He was sentenced to 8 years jail for assault against a Russian border guard soldier ("Anto Soviet Attitude", Sec 6, of the SZG Constitution), but he was released after almost 2 years and went to BITTERFELD (51 37 N, 12 19 E). As he worked only in this camp and left TORGAU immediately after having been released he had no knowledge of the area of this town.

**II. LOCATION:** The Concentration Camp in TORGAU was located in the old fortress of this town and consisted of the following structures:

One cross shaped 5-story masonry building, 250 by 20 by 20 to 25 m (wings about: 60 by 20 by 20 to 25 m), with a gambrel roof covered with tiles, housing prisoners. Two casemates with basements, 60 m long, also housing inmates.

One 3-story masonry T-shaped structure (wings: 30 by 15 by 15 and 20 by 15 by 15 m) with a low pitched gable roof covered with tiles, housing inmates suffering from tuberculosis. Three stone casemates, similar to those described above, with cells used for inmates who were punished with special confinement for disciplinary offences.

**III. NAMES OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND GUARDING PERSONNEL.**

The director of this Concentration Camp was a "Polizeioberrat" (Police Head Council or) PROTZE, 45 years old, director of the concentration camp in WALDHEIM (51 04 N, 13 01 E), then transferred to TORGAU, SED member. His assistants were the "Polizeioberrat" ROTHE, about 50 years old, SED member and simultaneously member of the SSD (State Security Service), member of the Communist Party before 1933, and inmate of a German Concentration Camp before or during the war.

**IV. INMATES:**

Six thousand to 8,000 inmates were interned in the fortress of TORGAU. They were all male. The average age was 40 years. The youngest inmate was 16 years old and the oldest 75 years. The young people, ranging in age from 16 to 23 years (about 800) were separated from the other inmates. About 5% of the prisoners were criminals. They were mainly used as leaders of the working brigades. One of these criminals had already had 25 previous convictions. Apart from this, about 250 BIBELFORSCHER (a religious association) were interned here. All other inmates were sentenced for sabotage or for espionage. About 60% of the prisoners had a higher education (lawyers, instructors, directors of factories, officers). Most of them had been interned since 1945 or 1946. Apart from Germans, several persons of Dutch nationality were interned in this camp and SOURCE stated that he met 5 Americans, but he did not know their names and could give no details about them. All above mentioned groups (criminals, BIBELFORSCHER, inmates sentenced for espionage and persons sentenced for sabotage) were separated from each other. The cells of the criminals were marked with yellow strips, those of the inmates sentenced for espionage with red ones, the cells of the persons interned for sabotage had green strips, and the BIBELFORSCHER had black marks.

**V. FOOD AND CLOTHING:**

The inmates got  $\frac{1}{2}$  litre soup,  $\frac{1}{2}$  litre coffee, 350 grams of bread, 10 grams of sausage, 10 grams of margarine and  $\frac{1}{2}$  spoonful jam per day. SOURCE was informed that the internees suffering from tuberculosis got more food. The prisoners did not receive any tobacco. They were in possession of one jacket, a pair of trousers, 2 shirts,

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2 pairs of pants, foot-rags and one pair of clogs.

EVAL

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## VI. TREATMENT.

DISCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT

Concentration Camp in TORGAU

The treatment was bad. The inmates were very often beaten by the guards and severe punishments were imposed for trifling disciplinary offences. There were the following kinds of punishments: Fourteen days detention in special cells (the inmates were allowed to have straw-mattresses in their cells; they got hot meals every other day only). Fourteen days to 8 weeks detention (the inmates were allowed to have straw-mattresses every 4 days only, and got hot meals within the same intervals). Detention in special dark cells which were so small that the inmates could not lie down. They were allowed to sit down in order to sleep for only 2 hours at night. worked only in the internment had permission to write letters (one letter per month) and could receive parcels and letters (one letter, and one parcel of a weight of 2 kg per month). They were allowed to read books and newspapers, but did not get any political books and when they got the newspapers the pages containing the political information had been taken away. The relatives of the internees were permitted to come to see them every 1/2 year for 10 to 15 minutes.

## VII. HEALTH:

The camp was a 5-story masonry building, 250 by 20 by 20 to 25 m (wings about: 50 by 25 m), with a gambrel roof covered with tiles, housing prisoners. The camp had basements, 60 m long, also housing inmates.

The health situation was bad. Many internees suffered from tuberculosis. No 18 vaccinations were given. The death rate was very high. SOURCE repeatedly noticed that 2 to 5 dead inmates were carried off within one day. described above, with cells used for inmates punished with special confinement for disciplinary offences.

## VIII. WORK:

The inmates sentenced for political reasons worked only within the camp area (work for camp supply). The criminals also worked outside of the camp.

## IX. SECURITY MEASURES:

This concentration camp was surrounded by a 6 m high red brick wall topped with a live wire. Several wooden watchtowers were located along it. They were equipped with searchlights and guarded by people's policemen armed with tommy guns. People's police men accompanied by dogs patrolled along the wall at night.

The average age was 40 years. The youngest inmate was 16 years old and the oldest 75 years. The young people, ranging in age from 16 to 25 (about 100) were separated from the other inmates. About 8% of the prisoners were criminals. The were mainly used as leaders of the working brigades. One of these criminals had already had 25 previous convictions. Apart from this, about 250 inmates were sentenced for sabotage or for espionage (Commanding instructors, direct- 7052 AISS 1945 or 1946. Apart from Germans, several persons of Dutch nationality were interned in this camp and SOURCE stated that he met 5 Americans, but he did not know their names and could give no details about them. All above mentioned groups (criminals, BIRNFORSCHER, inmates sentenced for espionage and persons sentenced for sabotage) were separated from each other. The cells of the criminals were marked with yellow stripes, those of the inmates sentenced for espionage with red ones, the cells of the persons interned for sabotage had green stripes, and the BIRNFORSCHER had black marks.

## V. FOOD AND CLOTHING:

The inmates got 1/2 litre soup, 1/2 litre coffee, 350 grams of bread, 10 grams of sausage, 10 grams of margarine and 1 spoonful jam per day. SOURCE was informed that the internees suffering from tuberculosis got more food. The prisoners did not receive any tobacco. They were in possession of one jacket, a pair of trousers, 2 shirts,

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